



June 27, 2005

Via Facsimile

The Honorable Jim Kolbe
United States House of Representatives
Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs
Appropriations Subcommittee
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kolbe,

On behalf of the 5,000 coalition members that Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) represents, I am writing to urge you to ensure that the Andean Counterdrug Initiative (ACI) is funded at the Administration's request of \$734.5 million for fiscal year 2006 and to oppose any efforts to cut this funding. The ACI is a critical drug and crime control program that helps alleviate the rampant sale of drugs, both in Colombia and the United States.

Colombia produces 80% of the world's supply of cocaine. It is the source of more than 50% of the heroin and 90% of the cocaine that enters the United States. The ACI program has been effective in reducing the cultivation and production of heroin and cocaine throughout Colombia in recent years. In fact, in 2004, the cultivation of opium poppy, which is the source of heroin, was reduced by 52%, while the potential pure heroin production was reduced by 51%. This is the third year in a row that opium poppy cultivation levels have dropped. Additionally, coca cultivation was reduced by 33% between 2002 and 2004.

Community anti-drug coalitions throughout the country work collectively every day to educate the public and reduce the availability of illegal drugs and the scourge they cause. The ACI clearly is making progress in fighting the drug war in Colombia, which means that the opportunity for these drugs to make it to the United States also is decreasing. Now is not the time to cut funding for this essential program. Please continue to work to ensure that the ACI is funded at the Administration's request of \$734.5 million for fiscal year 2006.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Dean
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired
Chairman and CEO